



Press Release

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Spring Storm Situation Update

Helena, Mont – The sunny weather and blue skies are a drastic change from the recent spring storms that hit our state and prompted the signing of an Executive Order by the governor. While many of us are enjoying the warming weather, several areas of our state are still working to assess the damage that occurred during the storms and many are anticipating continuing problems.

The situation in Glacier County continues to be the most significant concern.

Crews continue to restore power outages in the area while most communications capabilities have been restored. The Corps of Engineers delivered 30,000 sandbags; however, the stream flow continues to recede at this time. There is some concern over snow melt throughout the weekend. The water supply for the City of Browning is being monitored for possible contamination and the Red Cross is bringing in water and providing meals. Approximately 3100 of the reservation's livestock has been affected and access is making it difficult to care for them. Fewer than 100 of these animals have died as a result of these storms.

Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Toole, and Pondera Counties continue to assess their damages to determine the extent of their recovery efforts.

The most critical variable for future flooding as a result of this storm system continues to be the weather. The forecast for seasonably cool temperatures, little to no additional precipitation throughout the weekend, and a gradual warming trend are ideal conditions for allowing the existing water to dissipate with minimal consequences while providing a slow melt of accumulated snow in the mountains.

For information on advisories, watches and warnings throughout the state, visit the National Weather Service's website:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrhq/javaLinks/index.shtml>

Other sites that provide helpful information are as follows:

To view the DES situation report:

<http://discoveringmontana.com/DMA/DES/SituationRpts.htm>

The Extension Disaster Emergency Network's site: <http://www.montanahelp.org/>

For more information, contact Monique T. Lay, PIO at 841-3911.

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